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Viewing cable 06KINGSTON2065, JAMAICA: GOVERNMENT DEFEATS NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06KINGSTON2065**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
06KINGSTON2065	2006-10-18 20:45	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Kingston

Appears in these articles:

<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20110602/lead/lead2.html>

VZCZCXYZ0013
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHKG #2065 2912045
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 182045Z OCT 06
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3774

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 002065

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CAR (RANDALL BUDDEN)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/17/2016
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ECON](#) [KCOR](#) [JM](#)
SUBJECT: JAMAICA: GOVERNMENT DEFEATS NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION

REF: KINGSTON 2020

Classified By: Charge d'affaires, a.i. James T. Heg for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (U) On October 17, Parliament debated for eight hours a

no-confidence motion brought by Bruce Golding, leader of the opposition Jamaica Labor Party (JLP), against the ruling People's National Party (PNP), in response to the controversy surrounding the USD 500K in political funding donated to the PNP by Dutch oil trader Trafigura (reftel). The motion was defeated, as expected, by a vote of 33 to 23, with Members of Parliament (MPs) voting strictly along party lines.

¶12. (U) Golding opened the debate and stated that the opposition believes that the Trafigura controversy is enough to cause the country to lose confidence in PSM and her government. Golding suggested that the USD 500K "gift" from Trafigura was carried out in a clandestine and surreptitious manner and that the entire affair was sleazy and incestuous. Golding argued that respectable democracies hold their governments accountable and respectable Parliaments secure that accountability.

¶13. (U) Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller (PSM) spoke during the debate; however, rather than addressing the issue head on, she charged that the no-confidence motion had been brought to deflect attention from a censure motion against JLP MP Karl Samuda brought by the newly appointed Minister of Information and Development, Donald Buchanan. Buchanan replaced Colin Campbell as Information and Development Minister last week after Campbell resigned due to the fall out over the Trafigura scandal.

¶14. (C) On October 18, PolOff spoke to JLP Member of Parliament James Robertson regarding the aftermath of the no-confidence vote. Robertson stated that the PNP had "weathered the storm," but that the invincibility of PSM has cracked. Robertson also stated that he thought his party should have focused their attack on Philip Paulwell, Minister of Industry, Technology, Energy and Commerce, rather than on PSM since there was no way that the "most popular prime minister in Jamaican history was going down, but the PNP may have given up Paulwell." According to Robertson, the earliest that he predicts elections will be called is June 2007 after Cricket World Cup.

¶15. (C) Comment: No information has yet surfaced to directly implicate PSM in the scandal. The JLP will certainly try to keep the issue on the front-burner. It has knocked PSM's march to a likely victory this fall in early elections off stride. The Prime Minister now, baring any further revelations, will likely choose to delay elections and allow this scandal to blow over and be forgotten by Jamaican voters, as so many have in the past. End Comment.

HEG